

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 01250 261717Z

45

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 OPIC-03 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05 IO-10

AID-05 SY-05 OPR-02 A-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01

SCCT-01 OC-05 CCO-00 /115 W
----- 082991

P R 261025Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4065

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUANDA 1250

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ROUNDUP AUGUST 26 - LUANDA

1. FIGHTING BROKE OUT AUGUST 24-25 IN MOCAMEDES AND MPLA IS CLAIMING TO HAVE TAKEN THE CITY. MPLA ALSO CLAIMS THAT THE CUNENE DISTRICT IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA IS UNDER ITS CONTROL.

2. SOME 1,200 MPLA SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS WHO HAVE TAKEN REFUGE IN NOVA LISBOA IN THE PORTUGUESE ARMY GARRISON ARE TO BE CONVEYED NORTH ON AUGUST 26 WITH A PORTUGUESE GUARD. UNITA SECRETARY GENERAL NZAU PUNA HAS PROMISED TO GO TO THE UNITA/CHECKPOINT AT QUIBALA TO ENSURE THE SAFE PASSAGE OF THE GROUP. ABOUT 250 MPLA TROOPS FROM THE NOVA LISBOA INTEGRATED FORCES ARE IN THE GROUP.

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PAGE 02 LUANDA 01250 261717Z

3. FIGHTING HAS BROKEN OUT AGAIN IN LUSO AND A PORTUGUESE AIRLIFT OF WHITES FROM LUSO TO NOVA LISBOA WAS INTERRUPTED.

4. THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ESTIMATES THERE ARE NOW 40,000 DISPLACED WHITES IN NOVA LISBOA AND 30,000 BLACKS. THE RED CROSS HAS STARTED ITS PRISONER VISITATION PROGRAM, AND WILL ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE A PRISONER EXCHANGE AS SOON AS THEY HAVE MORE INFORMATION ON THE NUMBERS HELD BY EACH MOVEMENT. THE RED CORSS MAY ALSO OPEN UP A DELEGATION IN CARMONA.

5. A GROUP OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WHO WENT TO THE CAXITO FRONT ON AUGUST 25 RETURNED TO FILE STORIES THAT THE MPLA WAS IN FULL RETREAT AND THAT FNLA MIGHT SOON BE IN LUANDA. AT ABOUT 1600 HOURS THEY SAW ABOUT 100 DISPIRITED, ANGRY MPLA SOLDIERS WHO CLAIMED THE FNLA WAS ATTACKING FROM THE SEA. I CHECKED THE SITUATION OUT WITH THE ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER, WHO SAID IT WAS UNCHANGED. A RECONNAISSANCE PLANE THAT FLEW OVER THE AREA AT 1730 HOURS TO TAKE A FINAL READING BEFORE DUSK FOUND NO MAJOR CHANGE IN THE DISPOSITION OF FORCES. A PORTUGUESE OFFICER TOLD ME THAT AFTER SEVERAL DAYS AT THE FRONT WITH LITTLE FOOD OR WATER AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE HIGHER ECHELONS, THE TROOPS OFTEN DECIDE ON THEIR OWN TO ABANDON THEIR POSITIONS. THEY COME TO LUANDA, RELAX, GET RECHARGED AND ARE READY ONCE AGAIN TO DO BATTLE.

6. LUANDA'S TWO MORNING PAPERS HAVE CLOSED DOWN FOR LACK OF NEWSPRINT. AUGUST 26 WAS THE LAST DAY OF PUBLICATION.

7. FNLA MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MATEUS NETO HAS ISSUED A LENGTHY EXPLANATION OF WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. I WILL REPORT MORE FULLY BY SEPARATE TELEGRAM. NETO LEFT FOR EUROPE ON AUGUST 25.

8. A LUANDA RESTUARANT OWNER GAVE US THE FOLLOWING PRICE INCREASES FOR SELECTED FOODS SINCE THE MPLA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LUANDA 01250 261717Z

OFFENSIVE BEGAN IN JULY:

VEGETABLES - 200 TO 300 PERCENT

POTATOES - 100

COOKING OIL - 60

FISH - 300

MEAT - 25

EGGS - 25

HOUSEWIVES REPORT THAT THE PRICE OF POTATOES HAS
QUADRUPLED OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. POTATOES AND
MANY VEGETABLES COME FROM UNITA-CONTROLLED AREAS.

9. THE FLOUR MILL HERE REPORTS THEY ARE GRINDING EIGHTY
TONS OF WHEAT A DAY IN LIEU OF THE 210 TONS THEY USED
TO GRIND. THE MILL WORKS TEN HOURS INSTEAD OF THE ROUND
THE CLOCK SCHEDULE IT FORMERLY MAINTAINED. ALMOST ALL OF THE
FLOUR IS CONSUMED IN LUANDA AND THE INTERIOR REGIONS ARE
VIRTUALLY WITHOUT FLOUR. WHEAT IS NO PROBLEM; THERE
ARE 5,000 TONS IN WAREHOUSES AND ANOTHER
15,000 TONS IN A SHIP WAITING FOR A BERTH.
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